

November 17, 2009

Mayor and Council -

On behalf of the Charter Review Commission, we thank you for the opportunity to serve the City in reviewing the City charter and recommending potential changes to address past issues and further position the City for dynamic growth.

The past and present elected leaders and City Staff of the City of Frisco have done an admirable job of managing the growth of Frisco while positioning the City well for the future. This has been accomplished with eye towards learning lessons from other fast growth cities while responsibly positioning the City as a leader within not only the north Texas region but as a nationally recognized city.

The Charter Review Commission has taken a similar approach. We solicited feedback from citizens and city leaders in a multitude of channels. Further we then took this feedback and combined it with best practices from other cities not just regionally or state wide but also cities nationwide.

The goal of the Charter Review Commission was to take a long term view of the City Charter and ensure that changes proposed would serve the City well not just with the current leadership in the near term but with future leaders over the long term. Changes proposed were made to strengthen the position of Frisco relative to its regional neighbors with an effort to ensure we can compete regionally and ensure the voice of Frisco is well represented in regional and state wide councils.

We also made changes to ensure consistency between to City Charter and evolving state law. We recognized that the Charter is a tool used by both residents and businesses within Frisco and as such should be current. However we resisted changes meant to address single isolated issues or personalities.

Lastly changes proposed were considered through the lens of the Charters most important constituent, the citizens of Frisco. It was the desire of the Charter Review Commission to produce a product easily used and understood by citizens while providing Frisco residents with appropriate protections and transparency into city government.

As in any complex endeavor bright people can often disagree but understand the need to compromise for the greater good of the organization. That was the case with the Charter Review Commission as well. There was spirited debate among commission members on the changes proposed however creative problem solving prevailed and all changes included in the draft document provided to you were supported by unanimous votes by the commission members.

We sincerely hope the Council finds value in the work done by the Charter Review Commission. We look forward to supporting these changes during the campaign for the Charter Election and we urge Council to unanimously accept the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission.

Warm Regards,

Will Sowell
Chairman
Frisco City Charter Review Commission